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substances is drawn out into a cylindrical thread, the latter will, under certain conditions, break up into a series of drops of definite size and of definite distances from each other. If two such cylindrical threads of unequal size are treated in the same way, they will form drops proportionate to the original sizes of the threads, etc. Here Bütschli claims we find an analogy to the tripartite division of the archenteron of the gastrula of the sea urchin. I may add that a still more striking parallel is to be found in the behavior of the "fluid crystals" described by Lehmann. If a portion of one of these is pinched off, it shows from its optical behavior that it has assumed the crystal condition characteristic of the original whole.

Bütschli concludes: The old and the new vitalism alike emphasize the presence of the unsolved riddles of biology and express a doubt as to their solution on mechanical principles. They teach us nothing about the organism, since the very premises of the vitalistic argument rest on the assumption of an ultimate orderly action that is in itself beyond our comprehension. Therefore, we may well say that we can only grasp those parts of the phenomena of life that we can interpret by means of physico-chemical principles. T. H. M.

Biometrika, "a journal for the statistical study of biological problems," makes its first appearance with the number for October, 1901. Its aim is to serve "as a means of collecting under one title biological data of a kind not systematically collected or published in any other periodical," and of spreading such a knowledge of statistical theory as may be requisite for scientific treatment of the data collected. The editors are "in consultation with Francis Galton," Professors W. F. R. Weldon, Karl Pearson, and C. B. Davenport. *Biometrika* is published in Cambridge, England, at the University Press, a sufficient guarantee that the excellent form given to the initial number will be maintained. An excellent portrait of Darwin, from the Pinker statue at Oxford, forms the frontispiece. An editorial by Francis Galton is followed by papers by Professor F. Ludwig, Miss M. Beeton, and Professors Karl Pearson, W. F. R. Weldon, and other well-known students of variation.